

- Moon's Orbit from Meridional Observations of the Moon. Mr. Airy.
 Elements of Minor Planet (¹¹⁶). Dr. R. Luther.
 Formules pour le Calcul des Orbites des Etoiles doubles. Dr. De Gasparis.
 Observations, Elements, and Ephemeris of Tempel's Comet. Mr. Hind.
 Elements of Tuttle's Comet for the Southern Hemisphere. Mr. Hind.
 Occultation of *Vesta* by the Moon, 1871, Dec. 30. Mr. Hind.
 1872.
 Jan. 12. On the Variable Star S *Orionis*. Rev. T. W. Webb.
 On the Identity of the Triple Star H. i. 13. Mr. Hunt.
 Remarks on the Planet *Jupiter*. Mr. Lassell.
 A Suggestion on the use of Chronometers. Mr. Gill.
 Occultation of *Vesta*, Dec. 30, 1871. Mr. Talmage.
 Note on Encke's Comet. Rev. H. C. Key.
 Proposed Devotion of a Special Observatory to the Observation of *Jupiter's* Satellites. Mr. Airy.
 Observations of Occultations of Stars by the Moon, and Phenomena of *Jupiter's* Satellites. Mr. Airy.
 On the Transit of *Mercury*, 12th Nov. 1782, observed by J. Pennington. Rev. A. Freeman.

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ADDRESS

Delivered by the President, William Lassell, Esq., on presenting the Gold Medal of the Society to Signor Schiaparelli.

You will have learned from the Report just read, that your Council have awarded the Gold Medal this year to Signor Schiaparelli; and I regret to have to inform you that we shall be deprived of the pleasure of presenting it to him in person; as by a letter received from him a few days ago, I learn that his duties of Professor and Director of the Observatory at Milan will prevent his being able to undertake so long a journey.

The first notice I find of Signor Schiaparelli's labours is his discovery of the minor planet *Hesperia*, at the Observatory of Milan, on the 29th of April, 1861, an indication that, besides his mathematical attainments in Theoretical Astronomy, he possesses industry and practical skill as an observer.

In the *Astronomische Nachrichten* of 13th August, 1864 (No. 1487), is a purely mathematical paper by him, entitled, "Théorèmes sur le mouvement de plusieurs corps qui s'attirent mutuellement dans l'espace." Of this paper, not bearing immediately upon those labours of Signor Schiaparelli which have more especially called forth the award, I will only express the opinion of a friend of high mathematical attainments, who characterizes it "as an elegant and probably original contribution to the theory of the orbits of bodies moving freely in space, and acted on only by their mutual attractions."

I come now to give some account of Signor Schiaparelli's principal discovery of the law of identity of meteors and comets, and of the observations and reflections which led him to that result, as contained in a series of letters to Father Secchi in the year 1866.

It appears from these, that Signor Schiaparelli's study of this subject received a great impulse from his own observation of the meteors which fell on the nights of the 9th, 10th, and 11th of August, 1866. He states that he was then confirmed in the opinion expressed three years before, that, of the meteors which usually fall on those nights, a great number are distinguished by